United Nations

Daily Highlights

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THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General's Personal Envoy on Yugoslavia Cyrus Vance receives confirmation from Croatian President Tudjman that he accepts "fully and unconditionally" Secretary-General's plan for deployment of United Nations peace-keeping force in Yugoslavia; the leader of the Serbian community in Croatia yet to accept this plan.

- Indian industrialist and Population Council named 1992 winners of United Nations Population Award.

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The Security Council held consultations today to discuss the Secretary-General's report on Yugoslavia, as well as a draft resolution circulated among Council members. The Council will resume its consultations tomorrow morning.

Following consultations this morning, the Secretary-General's Personal Envoy to Yugoslavia, Mr. Cyrus Vance, briefed correspondents at Headquarters saying he was optimistic about the situation in that country since receiving a letter from President Tudjman of Croatia this morning confirming that he accepts "fully and unconditionally" the Secretary-General's plan for the deployment of United Nations peace-keeping force in Yugoslavia.

According to the Secretary-General's report, dated 4 February, the Government of Croatia and the local Serbian leaders in the Krajina United Nations Protected Area constituted major obstacles to the decision of the Security Council to establish and deploy a peace-keeping operation in Yugoslavia.

Mr. Vance told correspondents that the only remaining obstacle now to going ahead with the peace plan was Milan Babic, the leader of the Serbian community in that area, the self-proclaimed "Republic of Serbian Krajina", who had still not accepted the plan. However, he said, the Federal Government and Army and the other leaders had taken it upon themselves to obtain the agreement of Mr. Babic.

(more)

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Asked about the possibility of sending in a peace-keeping force at this time, he said that all three parties would need to agree to the Secretary-General's plan as it had been drafted in his recent report.

Mr Vance made a point of thanking German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher for his "very helpful intervention" in bringing about the present agreements. He went on to say that given the extreme delicacy of the present situation, it would be very unwise for any further outside parties to interfere in the situation by granting recognition to the Republics. Such action would create the possibility of "serious disturbances", he said.

According to the Secretary-General's report, the deployment of a United Nations peace-keeping force rests on two central elements, namely the withdrawal of the Yugoslav Federal Army (JFA) from all of Croatia and the demilitarization of the United Nations Protected Areas, as well as on the continuing functioning, on an interim basis, of the existing local authorities and police, under United Nations supervision, pending the achievement of an overall political solution to the Yugoslav crisis.

In addition, the Secretary-General had proposed in his report that the group of United Nations military liaison officers in Yugoslavia be modestly enlarged to 75 officers for technical reasons since its deployment in that country now seemed likely to be longer than originally expected.

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An industrialist from India, J.R.D. Tata, and the New York-based Population Council, an international contraceptive research organization, have won the 1992 United Nations Population Awards. Given each year to one individual and one institution, the awards recognize outstanding contributions in the field of family planning and birth control.

The names of the winners were announced at a press conference at Headquarters today by the Chairman of the Committee of the United Nations Population Award, Jorge Montaño, Mexico's Permanent Representative of Mexico.

The 87-year-old Mr Tata was selected by the Committee for his private and public work to raise awareness of the importance of population control in India and many other countries. The family planning and welfare programme he introduced in his own factory in the 1950s became a model for programmes throughout the country, and the Family Planning Foundation of India, which he established in 1970, is still the country's leading non-governmental organization in the field of family planning.

The Population Council was chosen by the Committee for the excellence of its scientific research and training, and its work in developing and introducing new and more effective contraceptives. Its two most recent products are NORPLANT, the long-lasting contraceptive implant, and an advanced copper-t interuterine device.

The Committee of the United Nations Population Award is made up of representatives of 10 United Nations Member States elected by the Economic and Social Council for a term of three years.

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